



## Balears:

### a traditional vegetable garden by the sea

The staple vegetable crops of the Balearic Islands are cabbage, lettuce, escarole lettuce, tomato and onion; its typical fruits are apricot, almond, carob and citrus fruits. Leaf and stem vegetable growing cycles mean the market is supplied all the year round. Also important are potatoes for export and for domestic consumption, and late potatoes: they are harvested, respectively, in mid-March, mid-May and from 15 November to 15 January. Further major crops in the islands are peppers, aubergine, cauliflower, strawberry, melon and watermelon.

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The rise in output over the past few years reflects both good harvests of certain crops and the long-term growth of winemaking and of part of the vegetable sector.

The Balearic Islands are home to the outstanding mollar almond and the Ametla de Mallorca guarantee mark. This almond is distinctive for its flavour and butteriness, which make it ideal for patisserie uses especially. Ametla Mallorquina is a collective guarantee mark that identifies almonds meeting the technical quality standards specified in the rules of use of the mark.